


Despite the positive results, some DNA and law enforcement experts say it's not enough. The technology for DNA databasing far exceeds the ways in which it is being used. The nature of offenders and the process of our criminal justice system demand more to stop criminals early in their careers and prevent crime.

The suggested solution? Expand the database to include DNA from all offenders who are arrested for a crime.

"What it does is it creates a truly investigative tool, if, and that's a big if, law enforcement has a fast enough turn around time in terms of DNA analysis, and if they have the right people in the database," said Christopher Asplen, an internationally-known expert in forensic technology. "The reason I say that is, what ultimately a DNA database should do is change the way police do business. An effective DNA database will provide police with an opportunity to use DNA to lead the investigation and ultimately to solve the crime that way."

Others, like Jayann Sepich, say collecting DNA from arrestees "just makes sense." Sepich fought for arrestee legislation in New Mexico after her daughter, Katie, was raped, murdered, burned and left at a dumpsite with no suspects in her death. Now, New Mexico is one of 26 states which collects DNA from arrestees. >>



Davey McCann, forensic science specialist at the Kentucky State Police Central Forensic Laboratory, files DNA evidence. If Kentucky's DNA database is expanded, storage space will have to be considered for the influx of samples.